

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /128 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4026
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG PBOR IS
SUBJ: OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENTS

REF.: TEL AVIV 5587

1. A WELL INFORMED SOURCE STATED TO EMBOFF ON JULY 5 THAT ALMA OIL FIELD PRODUCTION IS NOW RUNNING AT 15-18,000 BPD. A RAPID DROP IN THE FIELD'S PRESSURE, HOWEVER, HAS DEVELOPED LATELY AND IT NOW APPEARS THAT SECONDARY (WATER INJECTION) RECOVERY MEASURES WILL BE NEEDED MUCH SOONER THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED.

2. SAME SOURCE REPORTED THAT GOI IS ON THE VERGE OF APPROVING CONSTRUCTION OF A 100 KILOMETER GAS PIPELINE FROM SADOT FIELD, ABOUT 1.5 KILOMETERS ON SINAI SIDE OF BORDER NEAR RAFFAH SALIENT, TO ARAD, WHERE ISRAEL'S ONLY EXISTING COMMERCIAL GAS FIELD IS NOW RUNNING OUT AND WHERE GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS IN PLACE. PIPELINE WILL ONLY BE 10 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND WILL CARRY UP TO 30 MILLION CUBIC FEET PER DAY OF GAS. RECOVERABLE RESERVES AT SADOT ARE ESTIMATED AT 50 BILLION CUBIC FEET, ABOUT THE
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SAME QUANTITY AS THE ORIGINAL ARAD FIELD. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THIS IS A VERY CONSERVATIVE RESERVE ESTIMATE. THREE WELLS ARE ALREADY IN AT SADOT AND TWO MORE WELLS ARE NEEDED TO GET THIS FIELD INTO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION.

3. MONTCRIEF OIL COMPANY WILL RECEIVE 25 PERCENT OF THE GAS PRODUCED AS DISCOVERER OF THIS FIELD. ACCORDING TO SOURCE,

SADOT GAS FIELD DOES NOT PRESENT SAME PROBLEM AS ALMA OIL FIELD BECAUSE, EVEN IF AREA IS RETURNED TO EGYPT, THERE IS NO MARKET FOR THIS GAS EXCEPT IN ISRAEL. GOI, THEREFORE, WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO PURCHASE GAS FROM EGYPT. SADOT FIELD IS A VERY SMALL FIELD BY WORLD STANDARDS BUT IT IS CAPABLE OF SUPPLYING ISRAEL'S PRESENT REQUIREMENT FOR NATURAL GAS FOR INDUSTRIAL USE. LEWIS

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